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E-Newsletter - 27th District, Tacoma

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27th Legislative District

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Health care reform — let us know your thoughts

Recently at a ribbon cutting I had the chance to talk about healthcare reform with U.S. Senator, Patty Murray. We quickly agreed the best way for us to represent our constituents is by asking them to share their personal stories and what they think should be the key elements of reform to our healthcare system. So, participate in your town halls and write to your elected officials at the national level.

Although this is a national discussion, it is equally a local discussion, and I would like to hear from you too.

Health Care Facts:

- Medical costs continue to outpace wages and overall inflation. Employer health costs alone are expected to grow another 9 percent in 2010. That's on top of a 9.2 percent increase in 2009 and another 9.9 percent increase in 2008.
- Since 2000, average family premiums have increased by 103 percent in Washington.
- State family premiums now average \$13,216 a year — about equal to the entire income of a minimum wage job.
- Roughly 62 percent of personal bankruptcies are caused by medical problems, and 78 percent of the people who filed for bankruptcy had health insurance.
- A record 876,000 people lack health care in our state.

The Senate's Health & Long-Term Care Committee hosted a joint work session in Olympia recently to discuss how Washington could be impacted by federal proposals. During the two hour session members of the business community talked about how increasing costs threaten their employees, and health care experts and providers discussed their concerns about the current system and the types of reforms they would like to see, including a public option that ensures everyone has access to care. For more information on this session, click [here](#).

We've worked hard in this state to improve the health care system by promoting better health information technology, preventive care and disease management. We hope any federal plan will allow states to continue to build on existing state reform efforts.

Remember, we want to hear from you.

Sincerely,

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